Amendments to and Listing of the Claims

Please cancel claim 23, without prejudice, and amend claims 24-27, 29-31, 35, 36 and 41, without prejudice, as set forth in the following listing of the claims, where stricken through language is being deleted and underlined language is being inserted.

1. – 23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~material~~ method of claim ~~23~~ 41, wherein the cross-linkages are zero-length cross linkages.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~material~~ method of claim ~~23~~ 41, wherein the at least one amide bond is selected from a lysine-glutamate amide bond and a lysine-aspartate amide bond.

26. (Currently Amended) The material of claim ~~23~~ 41, wherein cross-linked blood plasma proteins are present in an amount of about 1% to about 10% by total weight of the injectable material.

27. (Currently Amended) The material of claim ~~23~~ 41, further comprising a physiologically acceptable fluid.

28. (Previously Presented) The material of claim 27, wherein the physiologically acceptable fluid is present in an amount of about 99% to about 90% by weight of the injectable material.

29. (Currently Amended) The material of claim ~~23~~ 41, further comprising a component selected from the group consisting of an anesthetic compound, a vitamin, a growth factor, and an enzyme inhibitor.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of ~~preparing an injectable material for soft tissue augmentation, the~~ claim 41, wherein the intradermally-injected material is prepared by a method comprising forming intermolecular cross-linkages between and among blood plasma proteins.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of ~~preparing an injectable material for soft tissue augmentation, the~~ claim 41, wherein the intradermally-injected material is prepared by a method comprising

(a) obtaining a blood plasma sample from ~~a patient~~ the mammal,

(b) precipitating a protein portion from the blood plasma sample,

(c) forming intermolecular cross-linkages between and among blood plasma proteins of the protein portion, wherein the cross-linkages comprise at least one amide bond.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein step (b) comprises acidifying the blood plasma sample and mixing the acidified blood plasma sample with a nonaqueous solvent.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the blood plasma sample is acidified to a pH of about 4.5.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the nonaqueous solvent is an anhydrous alkanol.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein step (c) ~~is the~~ of forming cross-linkages ~~using~~ uses a zero-length cross-linking agent.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the zero-length cross-~~lining~~linking agent is selected from the group consisting of carbodiimides, isoxazolinium compounds, chloroformates, carbonyldiimidazoles, N-carbalkoxydihydroquinolines, tetranitromethane, potassium nitrosyldisulfonate, and diethylpyrocarbonate.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the zero-length cross-linking agent comprises 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein step (c) comprises mixing the zero-length cross-linking agent with the protein portion in an amount of at least about 0.1% by volume of the protein portion.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising the subsequent step of dialyzing the cross-linked blood plasma proteins.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising the subsequent step of autoclaving the cross-linked blood plasma proteins.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of augmenting a soft tissue defect in a skin area of a mammal, the method comprising intradermally injecting ~~a material~~ into ~~an intradermal~~

~~compartment of~~ the skin of the mammal a material comprising cross-linked, blood plasma proteins, wherein the cross-linkages comprise at least one intermolecular amide bond.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the blood plasma proteins are autologous to the mammal into which they are injected.